



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/788,697	02/27/2004	Timothy R. Coulter	VRT0119US	6928

60429 7590 09/22/2006

CSA LLP
4807 SPICEWOOD SPRINGS RD.
BLDG. 4, SUITE 201
AUSTIN, TX 78759

EXAMINER

ROSE, HELENE ROBERTA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2163

DATE MAILED: 09/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/788,697	COULTER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Helene Rose	2163	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1,8,11 and 17-79 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Detailed Action

1. Claims 1-37 have been presented for examination.
2. Claims 1-37 have been rejected.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 1, 8, 11, 17-19, 25 and 35 are objected to because of the following informalities: Claims 1, 8, 11, 17-19, 25 and 35 have a comma vs. a semi-colon, and also within Claim 18, a ":" should be inputted after the word comprising.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC-102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Watanabe (US Publication No. 2004/0260873, Filing Date: June 17, 2003).

Claims 1, 11, 19, and 37:

Regarding Claims 1, 11, 19, and 37, discloses a method/machine readable medium/data process utilizing the same functionality. Watanabe teaches a method/machine readable medium/data process having a plurality of instructions

executable by a machine embodied therein, wherein said plurality of instructions when executed cause said machine to perform a method comprising:

maintaining a copy of a data change log at a primary node, wherein said data change log at said primary node is associated with a primary data volume of said primary node the primary storage maintains a primary storage change table indicating modified primary storage data portions, and during backup, the change table is read sequentially, and where a table entry indicates a modified primary data portion, a copy of the modified data portion is transferred to the backup system and the backup system then either separately stores the copy of the modified primary data portion, e.g., as with versioning, or replaces the corresponding backup data portion with the modified primary data portion, Watanabe); and

said copy of said data change log is maintained at a data recovery node (paragraph [0007], wherein the primary storage maintains a primary storage change table indicating modified primary storage data portions, and during backup, the change table is read sequentially, and where a table entry indicates a modified primary data portion, a copy of the modified data portion is transferred to the backup system and the backup system then either separately stores the copy of the modified primary data portion, e.g., as with versioning, or replaces the corresponding backup data portion with the modified primary data portion, Watanabe);

detecting a failure of said primary data volume (paragraph [0006] and [00094], wherein when failure occurs at the primary site storage, host or both), wherein an administrator, which can reside in one or more of transfer manager 421, replication

Art Unit: 2163

manager 441, storage device controls 422, 442, primary/secondary hosts or an external, e.g., system monitoring/control server, detects the error and issues a "takeover" command to secondary storage 404, Watanabe); and

updating a secondary data volume of a secondary node using said copy of said data change log in response to said detecting (paragraph [0087], wherein Remote copy engine 1021 further sets a remote copy update indicator in remote copy update map 1011 to indicate that the remote copy data has been updated, Watanabe).

Claims 2, 12, 20, and 36:

Regarding Claims 2, 12, 20, and 36, Watanabe teaches wherein maintaining a real-time copy of said data change log at said primary node (paragraph [0106], wherein Remote copy engine 1021 further sets a remote copy update indicator in remote copy update map 1011 to indicate that the remote copy data has been updated, Watanabe).

Claims 3, 13, and 21:

Regarding Claims 3, 13, and 21, Watanabe teaches wherein replicating data to be written to said primary data volume from said primary node to said secondary node (paragraph [0111], wherein replication engine 1001 responds to a write primary reference map request, where the primary and secondary storage are not coordinated or dynamic referencing is provided, by initiating, i.e. secondary storage, reference manager 1007 and wherein reference manager 1007 responds by storing the primary reference map and wherein replication engine 1001 further responds to a read request by initiating access controller 1117. Access controller

1117 initiates copy selector 1115, which determines, based on predetermined copy selection criteria whether remote copy or local copy data is to be restored to the primary storage, and returns to access controller 1117 the determination, Watanabe).

Claim 4:

Regarding Claim 4, Watanabe teaches wherein receiving a request to perform a write operation on said primary data volume (paragraph [0015], wherein the replication manager can, for example, further be configured to conduct access requests including a direct read/write request or a request diverted from the primary storage, that correspond with a data item or data item group, or that include a request to restore primary storage data, or the determining can impose one or more store, read, data portion selection/ synchronization, requester, receiving device, throughput, timing, security or other preferences, among other combinable alternatives in accordance with a particular application, Watanabe);

storing data associated with said write operation substantially simultaneously on said data change log and said real-time copy of said data change log in response to said receiving (paragraph [0111], wherein during a redirection operation, replication engine 1001 responds to a write primary reference map request, where the primary and secondary storage are not coordinated or dynamic referencing is provided, by initiating, i.e. secondary storage, reference manager 1007 and Reference manager 1007 responds by storing the primary reference map, and replication engine 1001 further responds to a read request by initiating access controller 1117; paragraph [0057], wherein an update such as a data backup of primary storage 111 data, wherein

Art Unit: 2163

for example, replication manager 105b can respond to a storage request via storage controller 105a by causing a primary copy e.g., 105c, to be stored and upon substantially complete storage of the primary copy, replication manager 105b can further cause a secondary, local copy of the data to be stored, e.g., 105d, or if an error occurs during storage of the primary copy, then replication manager 105b can avoid storage or further replicating of the replicated copy and [0077] Watanabe).

Claim 5:

Regarding Claim 5, Watanabe teaches wherein said replicating said data to be written to said primary data volume to said secondary data volume (Refer to claim 3, wherein this limitation is substantially the same/or similar to claim 3, Watanabe).

Claims 6, 15, 23, and 34:

Regarding Claim 6, 15, 23, and 34, Watanabe teaches wherein said volume replication module comprises a volume replication module configured to asynchronously replicate data to be written to said primary data volume to said secondary data volume (paragraph [0067] and [0068], Watanabe).

Claims 7, 16, and 24:

Regarding Claims 7, 16, and 24, Watanabe teaches wherein receiving a manual update initiation indication (paragraph [0014], wherein secondary storage includes an updated local copy indicator indicating local copy data that has been updated from a first updated secondary storage portion to a second secondary storage portion; and paragraph [0057], wherein replication manager 105b further maintains a status indicator indicating the status of primary storage data and replicated data, e.g.,

Art Unit: 2163

indicating successful/unsuccessful storage or, for at least a replicated copy, that can further indicate a current or prior update state or a sequence or time/date update indicator of one or more prior updates, Watanabe); and

updating said secondary data volume using said real-time copy of said data change log in response to said receiving (Refer to claims 1 and 4, wherein this limitation is substantially the same/or similar to claims 1 and 4, Watanabe).

Claims 8, 17 and 25:

Regarding Claims 8, 17, and 25, discloses a method and data processing system utilizing the same functionality, Watanabe teaches wherein said real-time copy of said data change log comprises a plurality of entries (paragraph [0079], wherein data stores is interpreted to be the entries, Watanabe); and

said updating comprises:

identifying an entry of said plurality of entries as corresponding to an incomplete write operation on said primary data volume (paragraph [0080], wherein a suspend state is defined, Watanabe); and

updating said secondary data volume using said entry (Refer to claims 1 and 7, wherein this limitation is substantially the same as claims 1 and 7, Watanabe).

Claims 9, 18, and 26:

Regarding Claims 9, 18, and 26, discloses a method and data processing system utilizing the same functionality, Watanabe teaches a method and data processing system wherein copying a block of data from said real-time copy of said data change

log to a staging log at said secondary node, said block of data comprising a plurality of entries;

applying each of said plurality of entries to a data change log at said secondary node in response to said copying (paragraph [0079], Watanabe); and

updating said secondary data volume using said data change log at said secondary node (Refer to claim 1, wherein this limitation is substantially the same/or similar to claim 1, Watanabe).

Claim 10:

Regarding Claim 10, Watanabe teaches wherein detecting a recovery of said primary data volume (Refer to claim 1, wherein this limitation is substantially the same or similar to claim 1, Watanabe); and

resynchronizing said primary data volume and said secondary data volume in response to said detecting (paragraph [0012], [0013], and [0078], Watanabe).

Claims 14 and 22:

Regarding Claims 14 and 22, Watanabe teaches wherein said maintaining said real-time copy comprises:

receiving a request to perform a write operation on said primary data volume (Refer to claim 4, wherein this limitation is substantially the same or similar to claim 4, Watanabe);

storing data associated with said write operation substantially simultaneously on said data change log and said real time copy of said data change log in response

Art Unit: 2163

to said receiving (Refer to claim 4, wherein this limitation is substantially the same or similar to claim 4, Watanabe).

Claim 27:

Regarding Claim 27, Watanabe teaches a data processing system comprising:

a storage element to store a copy of a data change log at a primary node, wherein said data change log at said primary node is associated with a primary data volume of said primary node (Refer to claim 1, wherein this limitation is substantially the same or similar as claim 1, Watanabe); and

a recovery module configured to update a secondary data volume of a secondary node using said copy of said data change log in response to a failure of said primary data volume (Refer to claim 1, wherein this limitation is substantially the same or similar as claim 1, Watanabe).

Claim 28:

Regarding Claim 28, Watanabe teaches wherein said storage element comprises:

a storage element to store a real-time copy of said data change log at said primary node (paragraph [0007], wherein the primary storage maintains a primary storage change table indicating modified primary storage data portions and during backup, the change table is read sequentially, and where a table entry indicates a modified primary data portion, a copy of the modified data portion is transferred to the backup system, wherein the backup system then either separately stores the copy of the modified primary data portion (e.g., as with versioning) or replaces the corresponding backup data portion with the modified primary data portion, Watanabe).

Art Unit: 2163

Claim 29:

Regarding Claim 29, Watanabe teaches a data processing system further comprising a volume management module configured to mirror data to be written to said data change log to said real time copy of said data change log (see abstract, wherein facilitating restoration of a primary or secondary volume of a primary storage device or of a first or second secondary storage via secondary storage device copying, and/or alternative, alternating or internal/external application driven first and second (and/or further) secondary storage portion utilization, Watanabe).

Claim 30:

Regarding Claim 30, Watanabe teaches wherein a volume replication module configured to synchronously replicate data to be written to said data change log to said real-time copy of said data change log (paragraph [0108], wherein Local copy manager initiates synchronization manager 1003 to change the remote and local copy storage states to "synchronized", Watanabe).

Claim 31:

Regarding Claim 31, Watanabe teaches wherein said real-time copy of said data change log comprises a plurality of entries (paragraph [0079], wherein data stores is interpreted to be plurality of entries, Watanabe); and

said recovery module comprises a failover management module configured to identify operation of said primary data volume and update said secondary data volume using said entry (paragraph [0079], Watanabe).

Claim 32:

Regarding Claim 32, Watanabe teaches wherein failover management module configured to copy a block of data comprising a plurality of entries from said real-time copy of said data change log to a staging log at said secondary node (paragraph [0118], Watanabe).

Claim 33:

Regarding Claim 33, Watanabe teaches wherein said primary node comprises a volume replication module configured to replicate data to be written to said primary data volume to said secondary node (Refer to claim 5, wherein this limitation is substantially the same or similar to claim 5, Watanabe).

Prior Art of Record

1. Watanabe

(US Publication No. 20040260873)

Point of Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Helene Rose whose telephone number is (571) 272-0749. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am - 4:30pm Monday-Friday.

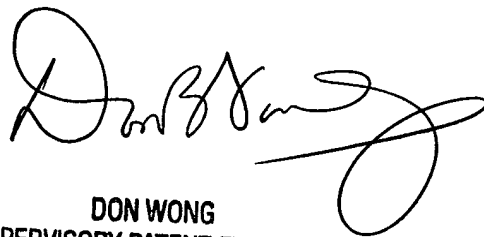
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on (571) 272-1834. The fax phone

Art Unit: 2163

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Helene Rose
Technology Center 2100
September 18, 2006



DON WONG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100